



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

DEC 14 2007

Environmental Resources Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The draft Environmental Assessment and Initial Study (EA/IS) for the lower American River Mile (RM) 0.5 Mitigation Site project in Sacramento, California, is now available for public review and comment. The project area is located within Discovery Park on the north bank of the lower American River, approximately 0.5 river mile east of the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The project is authorized under the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project (SRBPP).

The project would be constructed in two phases over two construction seasons. The first phase would involve transplanting existing elderberry shrubs from the grading area footprint to the adjacent transplant areas and reseeding for erosion control. The second phase would involve creating fish and wildlife habitat by excavating the existing bank at RM 0.5, constructing benches at various elevations, installing erosion control structures, and planting native plant species. The project would fulfill compensation requirements for SRBPP work at RM 56.7 on the Sacramento River, as well as create additional riparian and aquatic habitat for Federally listed anadromous fish.

The EA/IS (1) describes the existing environmental resources in the project area; (2) evaluates the effects and significance of the alternatives (including the proposed action) on the resources; (3) proposes measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to a less-than-significant level; and (4) discusses benefits created by the proposed project. If you would like a paper copy of the draft EA/IS, please contact Mr. Brian Luke at (916) 557-6629. Copies are also available at the Sacramento Public Library and the Sacramento District's website at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil>.

The public review period for the draft EA/IS will end on January 14, 2008. Please send any comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814-2922, Attn: Mr. Brian Luke. All comments will be considered and incorporated into the final EA/IS, as appropriate. If you have any questions on the project, please contact Mr. Mike Dietl at (916) 557-6742 or email: Mike.L.Dietl@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,


Frank C. Piccola
Chief, Planning Division